

6th February 1925]

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to the main question, may I know whether the Government are aware that the local bodies are actually not giving effect to the Government Order ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no information to that effect. "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" My own information is that most of the municipalities and district boards are not actually giving effect to the Government Order by publishing it in the proper manner so that it might be within the reach of the public. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Unless particular cases are brought to the notice of the Government that any particular officer has not reasonably obeyed the order, I cannot do anything. "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I point out that in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Tanjore, the publication was not sufficiently announced? 11-15 a.m. Are not Government going to enquire about it ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I cannot say whether the publication was sufficiently announced or not ; it is a matter of opinion. "

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya :—" Will the Government consider the suggestion that reports be called for from the district authorities as to how this resolution was given effect to in their districts ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" May I remind my hon. Friend that the Government Order only laid down the policy of the Government ? No great purpose would be served by calling on the district officers to say how far that policy has been given effect to. We must wait until cases arise in which that order is departed from. When specific cases do arise, it will then be time to interfere. "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I ask whether Government are going to allow municipalities and district boards to do things in their own way to the detriment of the oppressed and depressed classes ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" In so far as it lies within their constitutional powers, the Government have every right to leave municipalities and local boards to take their own way. "

Jails.

Release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon.

* 160 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have any intention of releasing Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon ?

A.—The reply is in the negative.

Mr. Anjaneyulu rose to put a supplementary question.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" On a point of order. This starred question has been sent in by a friend who is absent. Under rule 2 'If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.' So it is not open to any member at this stage to put a supplemental question. "

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ It is not stated in the President's order that it is not open to any other hon. Member to put a question. If nobody asks supplemental questions at the time when a question is called and if the hon. Member who put it comes in afterwards and wants to ask questions, then it will be open to him, to return to the question, after all the questions have been answered.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, then it will be open either to him or any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions have been answered. The time to exercise that right on the part of the member who is absent would accrue only after all the starred questions have been answered.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I do not think that is the construction. At any rate that was not my intention when I made the order.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Have the Government any intention at least of reducing the term of sentence in the case of this gentleman? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ No, Sir.”

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—“ Has the Government, in pursuance of the resolution passed by this Council, placed any conditions before him on which he would be released? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am not aware of any recommendation to Government that conditions of release should be stated to him.”

Convicts employed in jails to do scavenging work.

* 161 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of all jails with their respective places in the Presidency together with the number of convicts employed in such jails to do scavenging work, giving the particular sect or class or community or caste to which they belong; and

(b) if the Government have no information, whether they will be pleased to call for the information?

A.—Information is not available and the Government are not prepared to undertake the task of collecting the statistics for which the hon. Member asks.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to clauses (a) and (b), the answer is as follows: ‘ Information is not available and the Government are not prepared to undertake the task of collecting the statistics’ May I therefore take it that the Government have no control over district jails since they say they have no information? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I think I must intervene. The Government say that they are not prepared to undertake the task of collecting the statistics. I do not think the hon. Member is entitled upon that to ask the question whether they have any control over district jails. He may ask a question on the answer that has been given but not ask a question whether they have control or not which does not arise. They do not say they have no control.”